



Department of Justice

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INDIANAPOLIS MAN SENTENCED FOR BANK FRAUD

PRESS RELEASE

Timothy M. Morrison, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Indiana, announced that SYLVESTER REEVES, 38, Indianapolis, Indiana, was sentenced to 33 months imprisonment late yesterday by U.S. District Judge Sarah Evans Barker following his guilty plea to Bank Fraud. This case was the result of an investigation by the United States Secret Service and the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department.

Between July 17, and August 28, 2007, REEVES attempted to obtain \$135,000 from various financial institutions by the fraudulent use of prepaid debit cards. He actually received \$91,500. The scheme was executed in essentially the same fashion in all instances. REEVES had obtained several legitimate debit cards in his own name, usually over the internet. The cards were initially "loaded" with no or a nominal amount of money. REEVES would enter the bank, provide the card to a teller, and request a cash advance. Usually the teller would swipe the card and the cash advance would be declined for lack of funds. REEVES would then provide the teller with a toll-free telephone number to contact a "card service representative," purportedly affiliated with the card issuer. In fact, the person was a confederate in the fraud scheme. The card service representative would direct the teller to conduct the transaction in a different fashion and would advise that REEVES was authorized the cash advance requested. The card service representative also usually provided an "authorization code" for the transaction. The teller would then give REEVES the money requested and REEVES would leave the bank. When these transactions were ultimately processed through the legitimate card issuer, they were rejected. If the teller refused to complete the transaction, REEVES simply left the bank. REEVES conducted this scheme in four different counties in the Southern District of Indiana, and in locations in northern Indiana. REEVES always used his real name and legitimate identification documents at the banks.

According to Assistant U. S. Attorney James M. Warden, who prosecuted the case for the government, Judge Barker also imposed five years supervised release following REEVES's release from imprisonment. REEVES was ordered to make restitution in the amount of \$91,500.

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